

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 902
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to designate March 2004 as "American Red Cross Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers, that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, our Homeland Security Advisory System that monitors the risk of terrorist attacks in our nation has been raised to "high" on four separate occasions; and

WHEREAS, we are fortunate that no terrorist attacks have occurred during those periods; it is critical that all Americans and residents across Tennessee remain vigilant, prepared and ready to deter terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross has devoted itself to the goal of educating individuals, families, schools and businesses about what they can do at each threat level of the federal alert system to strengthen our communities' responses in the event of future attacks and other disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross urges all Americans to take five simple emergency preparedness steps: (1) plan an outline of what to do if a disaster strikes, (2) create a disaster supplies kit, (3) have at least one member of your household trained in first aid and CPR, (4) volunteer to help the local community prepare for disasters and (5) give blood regularly to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply of five to seven days in your community for the victims of medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, by joining the American Red Cross as a volunteer, course participant or instructor, contributor or blood donor, you can help your fellow Tennesseans respond to disasters such as home fires, tornadoes and floods; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Red Cross volunteers respond annually to over 2,000 disasters in the State of Tennessee and teach in excess of 165,000 Tennesseans courses in Health and Safety, CPR and aquatic lifesaving; and

WHEREAS, during Red Cross relief operations, volunteers assess damages, drive emergency response vehicles to distribute food and other supplies, provide shelter for families who have been evacuated from their homes and distribute basic necessities to people in need. These invaluable services are provided free of charge, paid for by generous contributions from the American people; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross was founded in 1881 to assist in wartime humanitarian efforts and disaster relief services and is a part of a worldwide Red Cross movement, which provides support in times of strife and disaster to the people of the world; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that valiant American men and women in the service are defending freedom far from our shores, the American Red Cross is serving military families by delivering emergency messages between soldiers in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan to their families back home; and

WHEREAS, international humanitarian efforts of the Red Cross last year included the organization of an effort to vaccinate nearly 43 million African children against the childhood killer, measles, and an ongoing program to aid families in war-torn Afghanistan with clean water, tents, school supplies and other necessities; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this body should recognize and applaud such an outstanding organization as the American Red Cross, for its extensive volunteer program and continuing humanitarian efforts and assistance in Tennessee and around the globe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate March 2004 as "American Red Cross Month" in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to recognize the past and ongoing contributions of the American Red Cross and to support this worthy organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

